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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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---------- 043498
O R 200050Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7298
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0433

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AS, PT, PFOR
SUBJECT: TIMOR

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED - FOLLOWING ARTICLE APPEARED IN MELBOURNE AGE JANUARY 19: "WOOLCOTT GETS A PUBLIC RAP ON THE KNUCKES FROM FRASER. PM REJECTS TIMOR ADVICE. INNER QUOTE WE SHALL DECIDE POLICIES. END INNER QUOTE. FROM MICHAEL RICHARDSON.

QTE SINGAPORE - THE PRIME MINISTER, MR. FRASER, YESTERDAY PUBLICLY REJECTED ADVICE FROM AUSTRALIA'S AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA, MR. R. WOOLCOTT, ON THE INDONESIAN INVASION OF EAST TIMOR.

QTE MR. WOOLCOTT URGED THE GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW I INNER QUOTE REALISTIC END INNER QUOTE COURSE AND ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY
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OF EAST TIMOR'S INCORPORATION INTO INDONESIA.

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QTE MR. FRASER SAID: INNER QUOTE IT IS THE GOVERNMENT THAT DETERMINES POLICY. THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. PEACOCK, HAS STATED POLICY CLEARLY IN RELATION TO TIMOR.

QTE I BELIEVE HE HAS DONE IT CLEARLY AND WELL, END INNER QUOTE HE SAID.

QTE MR. FRASER'S BLUNT AND DELIBERATE COMMENT COMES ON THE EVE OF MR. PEACOCK'S ARRIVAL IN INDONESIA FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

QTE MR. PEACOCK WILL HOLD TALKS WITH THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR. ADAM MALIK. HE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO MEET INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT SUVTO AND DEFENCE MINISTER, GENERAL PANGGABEAN.

QTE TIMOR AND ITS EFFECT ON AUSTRALIA-INDONESIA RELATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO DOMINATE THEIR DISCUSSIONS.

QTE MR. FRASER'S STATEMENT SUGGESTS THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE INDONESIANMILITARY INTERVENTION IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR -- EVEN AT THE PRICE OF A FURTHER DETERIORA-TION IN RELATIONS WITH JAKARTA.

QTE SECRET CABLES

QTE MR. WOOLCOTT'S ADVICE WAS CONTAINED IN A SECRET CABLES TO CANBERRA. THEY WERE LEAKED TO THE PRESS LAST WEEK AND PUBLICHED IN INNER QUOTE THE AGE END INNER QUOTE ON SATURDAY.

QTE HE SAID AUSTRALIA MUST NOW CURB HOSTILE ATTITUDES TOWARDS INDONESIA IN ORDER TO PRESERVE LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIPS.

QTE BECAUSE OF SHRP DIFFERENCES OVER TIMOR, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE REACHED THEIR LOWEST EBB SINCE INDONESIA'S ARMED CONFRONTATION OF MALAYSIA IN THE MID-SIXTIES UNDER THE LATE PRESIDENT SUKARNO.

QTE MR. PEACOCK AND THE HEAD OF HIS DEPARTMENT, MR. RENOUF,
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HAVE BEEN SPENDING THE WEEKEND IN SINGAPORE PREPARING FOR WHAT COULD A T TOUGH ROUND OF TALKS IN JAKARTA.

QTE SOME OF THE TENSION APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN REMOVED BY MR. MALIK'S DENIAL YESTERDAY THAT HE HAD CALLED FOR THE ANNEXATION OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR BY INDONESIA.

QTE HE SAID HE WOULD STRAIGHTEN OUT THIS MISUNDERSTANDING WITH

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MR. PEACOCK IN JAKARTA.

QTE MR. MALIK SAID THE PRO-INDONESIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF EAST TIMOR WAS PRESSING INDONESIA TO DECLARE ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE COLONY, INNER QUTE BUT WE WANT AN ACT OF FREE CHOICE THERE TO DECIDE THE TERRITORY'S FUTURE. END INNER QUOTE

QTE BUT WHILE THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT SOME WAY TOWARDS DEFUSING AUSTRALIAN GOVERMENT CONCERN OVER THE SELF-DETER-MINIATION ISSUE, HE SAID NOTHING ABOUT WITHDRAWAL OF INDONESIAN FORCES.

QTE AUSTALIA HAS INFORMATION THAT THERE ARE NOW MORE THAN 12,000 INDONESIAN TROOPS IN PORTUGUESE TIMOR AND PERHAPS AS MANY AS 30,000.

QTE REPORTS FROM JAKARTA LATE LAST WEEK QUOTED INDONESIAN OFFICIALS AS SAYING THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT WAS FOLLOWING A INNER QUOTE TWO-FACED POLICY END INNER QUOTE OFPRIVATE INNER QUOTE UNDERSTAINDING END NNER QUOTE OF INDONESIA'S ACTIONS IN TIMOR WHILE PUBLICLY BERATING INDONESIA FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS.

QTE IN HIS CABLE TO CANBERRA LAST WEEK, MR. WOOLCOTT SAID: INNER QUOTE INDONESIA WANTS TO KNOW WHETHER, PRIVATELY, WE STILL SYMPATHISE WITH THEIR OBJECTIVES EVEN IF WE CANNOT CONDONE THE MEANS THEY HAVE ADOPTED IN PURSUIT OF IT. END INNER QUOTE

END QUOTE.
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2. COMMENT: THE PRESS PUBLISHED PERTINENT PORTIONS OF A CONFIDENTIAL

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LENGTHY CABLE FROM AMBASSADOR WOOKCOTT WHICH ALLEGED: 1) THE GOA KNOW OF INDONESIA'S INTENTION TO TAKE OVER TIMOR BY MILITARY FORCE ALMOST A YEAR AGO; 2) THE DFA'S POSITION HAD BEEN THAT THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT BE CAUGHT UP IN A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE OVER TIMOR BUT SHOULD PURSUE GOALS DESIGND TO STRENGTHEN THE GOA'S LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH INDONESIA; 3) THE GOA PRIVATELY ENDORSED INDONESIA'S GOAL OF INCORPORATING EAT TIMOR; 4) DFA OFFICIALS BELIEVED INDONESIA WOULD HAVVE INVADED TIMOR NO MATTER WHAT AUSTRALIA SAID OR DID; 5) INDONESIA HAS BEEN SEEKING PRIVATE SUPPORT FROM THE GOA FOR ITS TIMOR POLICY.

3. AMBASSADOR WOOKCOTT'S CABLE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT THE GOA TRY TO CHANGE AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC OPINION ON EAST TIMOR. HE RECOMMENDED THAT "THE AMPHASIS SHOULD NOW BE ON ACCEPTING THE

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INEVITABILITY OF TIMOR'S INCORPORATION INTO INDONESIA ...
WHILE TAKING WHAT STEPS WE CAN IN AUSTRALIA TO CURB THE
GROWTH OF FURTHER HOSTILITY TOWARDS INDONESIA WITHIN THE
AUSTRALIAN COMMUNITY."

4. ACCORDING TO A DFA SOURCE, WOOLCOTT WROTE THE ABOVE MESSAGE
IN AN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER THE MORE BALANCED GOA STATEMENT ON
TIMOR MAKE BY FONMIN PEACOCK ON DECEMBER 29 (SEE CANBERRA
8594). ACCORDING TO THE SAME SOURCE, WOOLCOTT'S MESSAGE
INFURIATED A NUMBER OF DFA OFFICIALS INCLUDING FONMIN PEACOCK
WHO HAS NONG THOUGHT THAT AMBASSADOR WOOLCOTT'S POSITION WAS
TOO OPENLY AND TOO STRONGLY PRO-INDONESIAN.

5. THE LEAK OF WOOLCOT'S CABLE IS HIGHLY EMBARRASSING TO
THE GOA WITH FONMIN PEACOCK ACTUALLY IN JAKARTA FOR TALKS
WITH GOI OFFICIALS. PEACOCK HAS ORDERED A FULL-SCALE
INVESTIGATION INTO THE COURCE OF ROURCES OF THE LEAK. END
COMMENT.

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